

JANUARY 30, 1809.

---

Read the first and second time, and committed to a committee of the whole House, on Wednesday next.

---

## A Bill,

To prohibit, in certain cases, the entry of foreign vessels into the ports and harbors of the United States.

---



1    Sec. 1. *BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*  
2 *of the United States of America, in Congress assembled,* That no  
3 foreign ship or vessel shall be admitted to entry at any port or  
4 place within the jurisdiction of the United States, if such ship or  
5 vessel, with or without a cargo, sailed from a port or place to  
6 which a ship or vessel belonging to a citizen or citizens of the  
7 United States, shall not be admitted by treaty with the United  
8 States, or by permanent regulations of the government having  
9 jurisdiction over such port or place; and if, contrary to the in-  
10 tent and meaning of this act, any such ship or vessel shall be

11 found within the jurisdictional limits of the United States, not be-  
12 ing liable to seizure for any other cause, the company having  
13 charge thereof, shall be required to depart and carry away the  
14 same, avoiding all unnecessary delay ; and if they shall, notwith-  
15 standing, remain within the jurisdiction of the United States, the  
16 vessel and cargo shall be forfeited.

1     Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That in case of vessels here-  
2 by prohibited, which shall be driven by distress of weather, or  
3 want of provisions, into any port or place of the United States,  
4 they may be suffered to remain under the custody of the collector  
5 there, or nearest thereto, until suitable repairs or supplies can be  
6 obtained ; and as soon as may be thereafter, shall be required and  
7 suffered to depart ; but no part of the lading of such vessel shall  
8 be taken out or disposed of, unless by the special permit of such  
9 collector, or to defray the unavoidable expense of such repair.

1     Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That all penalties and for-  
2 feitures incurred by force of this act, shall be sued for, recover-  
3 ed, distributed and accounted for, in the manner prescribed by  
4 the act, entitled "An act to regulate the collection of duties on im-  
5 ports and tonnage," passed the second day of March, one thou-  
6 sand seven hundred and ninety-nine.